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Peacebuilding Commission

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Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 20 June 2007, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Løvald ..... (Norway)

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07-38850 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (PBC/1/BDI/3)

1. **The Chairman** said that, in accordance with the practice at previous meetings, he would take it that the Commission wished to hold an open meeting.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **The Chairman** suggested that the Commission should adopt the provisional agenda in document PBC/1/BDI/3.

4. *It was so decided.*

Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi

5. **The Chairman** drew attention to the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi, which would be sent to the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with similar covering letters.

6. He took it that the Commission, in its Burundi configuration, endorsed the development of the integrated peacebuilding strategy, of which the Strategic Framework was an important part, accompanied by the three letters and in accordance with the procedure agreed by the Organizational Committee at its ninth meeting (PBC/1/OC/SR.9).

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **Mr. Kamana** (Burundi) expressed gratitude to the Commission for its unceasing engagement with his country as it strived to build an enduring peace and a sustainable economy. The Commission's endorsement of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi was an important achievement in the peacebuilding process. Thanks to the efforts made, Burundi today has an integrated army and police force and was a successful example of the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. The document before the Commission integrated the recommendations made by its members, civil society, women's groups, political parties and international partners. Further to the commitments made by the Government and the Commission, the document defined the roles and responsibilities that Burundi's partners were prepared to undertake in order to consolidate peace. While the Government of Burundi was open to cooperation with regard to the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the Strategic Framework, it was imperative to move quickly on its implementation and not be sidetracked by procedural issues.

9. The recent meeting in Dar es Salaam between the President of Burundi and the leader of the Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu — Forces nationales de libération (PALIPEHUTU-FNL) had given fresh impetus to the implementation of the ceasefire agreement between the parties. Moreover, the leader of PALIPEHUTU-FNL had agreed to return to Bujumbura in order to follow up the implementation of the peace process, which was to start with the release of the group's imprisoned members.

10. Another significant development in the peacebuilding process was the admission of Burundi into the East African Community (EAC). Along with the Great Lakes Conference and the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), EAC represented a new means of anchoring Burundi in the region. The recent visit of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania had also bolstered the environment of peace that had been slowly developing in Burundi.

11. Recalling the inability of partners to honour pledges they had previously made owing to the numerous conditions that had been attached, he said that most of those conditions had been met. He urged all partners to honour the pledges made at the recent donor round table in Bujumbura in order to ensure the successful outcome of the peacebuilding process.

12. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) welcomed the reaffirmation by Burundi of its commitment to the achievement of the objectives in the Strategic Framework. He looked forward to continued cooperation with Burundi and said that the parties concerned must move quickly to implement the Framework. The division of labour was an important part of implementation and he anticipated that the Commission would act in coordination with other United Nations bodies such as the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The meeting between the President of Burundi and the leader of PALIPEHUTU-FNL, and the commitment made at that meeting to arrange a prisoner release and implement the ceasefire agreement, were welcome.

14. A follow-up strategy or mechanism was required in order to ensure that donor commitments made at the round table were implemented in a timely fashion. In that regard, he looked forward to receiving input from the Government of Burundi, the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) and other partners on how to fully implement the Strategic Framework, while ensuring that the financial resources for implementation would be available, as well as how to best coordinate the activities of donor countries, international financial institutions, the Peacebuilding Fund and other sources of financing.

15. **Ms. Gross** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Montenegro; and, in addition, Moldova and Georgia, said that the Commission's work was proof the international community's commitment to a reconciled, peaceful and prosperous Burundi. It was important for that commitment to be seen as encouragement by the political forces and people of Burundi. The Commission must prove that it added value to Burundi's development process and the European Union was committed to contributing towards substantial results in a spirit of partnership. There was a desperate need for political stability and improved security so that the people of Burundi could plan their future and that of the next generation.

16. The process that had produced the Strategic Framework had brought together a wide range of stakeholders and actors. That Framework would provide guidance to Burundi and its partners in pursuit of their common goals. The EU would continue to actively encourage and support implementation by the Burundian Government of its commitments and the inclusion of civil society in the implementation process. The Strategic Framework was an important step towards the development of an integrated peacebuilding strategy for Burundi.

17. In conclusion, she said that it was crucial to establish an independent judicial sector in order to stabilize the democratic process. Legal reform was also necessary so as to ensure the prosecution of those who committed acts of violence against women.

18. **Ms. Mujuma** (Observer for the United Republic of Tanzania) commended Burundi's efforts to devise a Strategic Framework that would help it to extricate itself from the consequences of conflict and poverty. The Framework was an instrument of cooperation that reflected the trust existing between Burundi, the Commission and the various stakeholders. It was not an end itself, but merely a mechanism by which the Commission could identify or address any challenges and gaps and help Burundi achieve lasting peace.

19. She echoed the Egyptian representative's call for donors to fulfil their commitments in timely fashion so that Burundi could meet the challenges with which it was faced. The Strategic Framework was a test case for the Commission: while it would earn praise for developing such frameworks and strategies, it would ultimately be judged on how it implemented them.

20. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi), speaking via videoconference from Bujumbura, said that it was his understanding that the Strategic Framework would be the basis for interaction between BINUB and the Commission. He hoped that the members of the Commission, in their pursuit of the integrated peacebuilding strategy that had just been endorsed, would adhere to the principles of cooperation found in the Strategic Framework, which called on the Commission to reduce to a minimum the reporting requirements placed on the Government of Burundi. The Commission should help the Government to improve the Strategic Framework as the primary reference point, rather than engaging in the development of an integrated peacebuilding strategy. It was his opinion that BINUB did not have the spare capacity to develop such a strategy. In fact, the Strategic Framework had been developed on the instructions of the Commission.

21. **Mr. Nshimirimana** (Burundi Focal Point for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict), speaking via videoconference from Bujumbura as a representative of civil society, said that civil society was indeed participating in the development process within the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi, the first such document drafted in collaboration and consultation with all relevant stakeholders. He noted with satisfaction the statement by the representative of Burundi. Civil society, for its part, had also assumed obligations under the Strategic Framework and had made commitments to reconciliation at the community level and support for equal access to justice, inter alia, through negotiation and trauma healing mechanisms. Resources

were needed, however, to meet those commitments. Every effort was being made to mobilize those resources through various channels. He trusted that the Commission would continue its important work of coordinating assistance and fostering support for that purpose.

22. **Mr. Deruffe** (France) said that the Strategic Framework was crucial as it reflected a concerted commitment on the part of the international community in support of the efforts of the Burundian Government to consolidate peace and promote sustainable development. France would do everything that it could to advance that process. It also welcomed the efforts made in Bujumbura to consult all the relevant stakeholders, including civil society, political parties, the private sector and international partners, on the development of the Framework. In view of the Burundian Government's limited resources, he associated his delegation with the statement made by the representatives of Egypt and the United Republic of Tanzania urging the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the Strategic Framework. The Commission must find a follow-on and implementation mechanism to meet the many goals and challenges put forward in the Framework. His delegation welcomed the development by the Burundian Government of the Priority Action Programme presented at the donor round-table conference on Burundi of May 2007. The meeting between the Burundian President and PALIPEHUTU-FNL in the United Republic of Tanzania constituted a significant milestone in the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement between the Government and PALIPEHUTU-FNL. Lastly, it was important for the Commission to continue to work closely with Bujumbura, including via videoconferences.

23. **Mr. Nsengimana** (Observer for Rwanda) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Framework and commended the statement made by the representative of Burundi, as it marked an important step towards its implementation. The Framework was the result of intense collaboration between all relevant stakeholders at the international and national level, as the statement by the representative of civil society in Burundi made very clear. National ownership had been a feature of the entire process. The most important remaining challenge was implementation of the objectives and priorities of the Framework. The outcome of the donor round table showed a willingness on the part of the international community to meet that challenge. The admission of Burundi and Rwanda to the East African Community was another factor which advanced the implementation of the Framework. His Government welcomed the progress made on the agreement between the Government of Burundi and PALIPEHUTU-FNL. Rwanda would spare no efforts to support the implementation of the Framework. The success of the Framework would mean success for the Commission and the United Nations itself and would bode well for other countries which might be engaged in similar peacebuilding processes in the future.

24. **Mr. Fernie** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation also welcomed the statement made by the representative of Burundi as well as the agreements between the President of Burundi and PALIPEHUTU-FNL and the role of the United Republic of Tanzania, South Africa and others in helping to bring them about. They showed that peacebuilding was about not only resources but political will as well. They also showed the importance of a regional dimension which went beyond subregions and covered Africa as a whole in helping countries to address their peacebuilding challenges. The Strategic Framework was a good basis for the Government of Burundi and the Commission to move forward. Implementation was the main challenge. There was a need therefore to move quickly while also recognizing the constraints in doing so, particularly on the ground in Burundi. The final paragraph of the Strategic Framework concerning the review of progress and monitoring was critical in that respect. His delegation placed particular emphasis on the need for "sequencing of efforts". It also welcomed the civil society representative's satisfaction with the consultative process. Although the high level of international consultation was welcome, continuing broad local consultation was ultimately more important.

25. His delegation was acutely aware of the need not to overburden either the Government of Burundi or the United Nations team in Bujumbura with excessive reporting requirements or any other additional documentation. Furthermore, the last paragraph of the Framework clearly stated that the tracking and monitoring mechanism would be based on the timelines established for the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and other frameworks in order to reduce the administrative burden on the Government.

26. The Commission had a role in mobilizing political and financial support to overcome obstacles to peacebuilding. His delegation welcomed the progress made at the recent donors conference in Burundi. It was important that pledges were honoured. There was also a need to continue to focus on non-financial support, which remained at least as important as financial support in trying to ensure that peace in Burundi was consolidated.

27. **Mr. Hayee** (Pakistan) joined others in welcoming the statement made by the representative of Burundi and the collaboration between the Commission and the Government both in Burundi and at Headquarters. One of the major achievements of the Commission's engagement in Burundi was the continuing focus of the international community on the country. The Commission had identified priority areas and objectives for consolidating peace in Burundi; the allocation of resources by the Peacebuilding Fund was another important step. The Strategic Framework was the result of extensive work led by the Government of Burundi and all its partners. It was an instrument of engagement and dialogue among Burundians, the Commission and other stakeholders and should be the basis for further action. His delegation welcomed the statement by the representative of Burundi that the Government was satisfied with the work of the Commission. Particular attention must be paid to implementation of the Framework, especially with regard to the mobilization of resources and the fulfilment of commitments.

28. **Mr. Kodera** (Japan), welcoming the statement by the representative of Burundi, said that his delegation was encouraged by recent developments on the ground and the commitment shown by the Government to further collaboration with the Commission. His delegation also welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Framework, although much work currently lay ahead to implement it. Japan had made considerable efforts to contribute to the work of the Commission, including its country-specific meetings on Burundi, and was determined to cooperate with all the relevant stakeholders on the important Framework.

29. **Mr. Hamburger** (Netherlands) said that the adoption of the Strategic Framework marked an important step towards the development of an integrated peacebuilding strategy and reflected a consensus outcome. That outcome, however, was less ambitious than his delegation had anticipated. It was important not to overburden Burundi with excessive reporting requirements. The Commission was engaged not in a bureaucratic but in a peacebuilding process. There was a need to move swiftly to further develop the Framework and identify peacebuilding policies and activities which could be implemented and were closely linked to existing frameworks such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. The Commission must also soon decide who would be responsible for future steps. The Commission could show that it had added value by giving priority attention to the need for all donors to honour their pledges of support, for a solid and transparent monitoring and review process as described in the last paragraph of the Framework and for the continued involvement of all local stakeholders in Burundi.

30. **Mr. Tarragô** (Brazil), commending the participation of the Government of Burundi in the drafting of the Strategic Framework, said that the document paved the way for the continued engagement of the international community in the peacebuilding process. The inclusion in the Framework of existing initiatives such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper was wise. The Commission must not duplicate the work already being done on the ground. Rather, it must fulfil its mandate to marshal resources, coordinate the efforts of partners and mobilize the international community for peacebuilding in Burundi. The Strategic Framework should serve as a guide for the further involvement of the Commission and other partners and a basis for mapping existing activities and identifying gaps. There should be a monitoring mechanism, preferably based on existing mechanisms, without placing additional burdens on the Government of Burundi. The work of the Commission would be judged by its capacity to assist Burundi, and Sierra Leone, in achieving sustained peace and political stability as well as economic recovery. With the support of the international community, Burundi would be able to implement the Strategic Framework and thus take a critical step towards the goal which the Government and the United Nations had set when the post-conflict situation of that country had been submitted for the Commission's consideration.

31. **Mr. Faaborg-Andersen** (Observer for Denmark), commending the important and encouraging statement by the representative of Burundi, said that much progress had been made since the Commission's inaugural meeting. The Commission had since then established itself as the main forum for discussion on

Burundi at the United Nations. The Government of Burundi deserved much credit for its efforts and contributions to the peacebuilding process. Its active participation had ensured sound local ownership of that process and should serve as a model for other similar peacebuilding efforts. The inclusion of civil society and experts in discussions had proved very useful and could undoubtedly be enhanced in the future. The Strategic Framework served as a solid basis for the Commission's future efforts.

32. The Commission must now consolidate its work by even stronger emphasis on prioritization and sequencing of the various interventions. Although it had a clear role in monitoring the implementation of the priorities, without precise benchmarks it could easily lose focus. Therefore, there was a need to further develop those benchmarks. That should not entail, however, additional administrative bureaucracy or reporting requirements on the part of the Burundian Government, as that would run counter to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The monitoring and benchmarking process was closely related to the wider process of implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

33. His Government would like to see more countries included in the agenda of the Commission, including those in immediate post-conflict situations. The Organizational Committee should make that a priority. Lastly, it commended the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office as the driving force in the present endeavour. The Commission must prove that it filled a gap in the international system with respect to post-conflict peacebuilding. The active participation of the Office would greatly help it to do so.

34. **Ms. Mladineo** (Croatia) stressed the importance of the commitment shown by the Government of Burundi to place its country on the path to peace and stability. National ownership of the Strategic Framework provided a sound basis for the work of the Commission, for without peace and stability nothing could be accomplished. She commended the Government of Burundi for its actions, which would serve to stabilize the regional environment. In the crucial phase ahead, follow-up must continue and steps must be taken to define processes and indicators and to remove obstacles. Her delegation agreed that balance must be maintained when establishing benchmarks, so as not to place excessive burdens on the Government's capacity.

35. **Mr. Palous** (Czech Republic) said that input from all stakeholders had been crucial to the adoption of the Strategic Framework. In his view, the greatest added value which the Commission could provide would be to maintain international attention on Burundi. In order to reduce the risk of relapse into conflict, it was important to build on existing strategies, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. As the capacity of the Government of Burundi for implementation of the Strategic Framework was limited, support from the Commission would be important for the consolidation of peace. Success in Burundi was important for all countries emerging from conflict, which would benefit from the lessons learned.

36. **Mr. Valenzuela** (Observer for the European Commission) said that the adoption of the Strategic Framework was the beginning rather than the end of a process. He welcomed its provisions regarding review and monitoring. Added value from the Peacebuilding Commission would come from its efforts at identification of priorities and sequencing in the short and medium term, which was why it was important to link the Framework to long-term strategies.

37. **Mr. Doraiswami** (India) said that it was of key importance that the Strategic Framework reflected the national ownership and shared aspirations of the Government and people of Burundi. His delegation welcomed the agreement recently reached in Dar es Salaam, which highlighted the importance of regional and subregional peace initiatives. It was essential for pledges made at the round table to be fulfilled, especially in the light of the importance of economic recovery, which would require large-scale, targeted interventions. There was a need for immediate action on the ground and support to develop the capacity of the Government of Burundi to help itself.

38. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica) said that there could be no sustainable peace without sustainable development; thus, equal emphasis must be given in the Strategic Framework to economic recovery and development and progress in human rights and the rule of law. There were high expectations of the Commission in its aid mobilization role, and he wondered whether the $35 million pledged thus far had been disbursed. A stage must be reached where the donor community could create an enabling environment for economic recovery and investment flows.

39. **Mr. Amieyeofori** (Nigeria) drew attention to the need for urgency in the implementation of the Strategic Framework. He welcomed the meetings between the Government and PALIPEHUTU-FNL in a spirit of reconciliation and hoped that they would continue, on the understanding that there was no victor and no vanquished. Finally, pledges of assistance must be honoured in order to avoid a crisis of expectation.

40. **Mr. Meurs** (United States of America) said that he welcomed the adoption of the Framework, but reminded the stakeholders in Burundi that they must remain actively involved in the process. The Commission had no precedent for its work and was far removed from the situation on the ground. He asked the stakeholders to guide it with regard to which actions were working and where financial and other types of support was needed.

41. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Executive Representative of the Secretary-General in Burundi), speaking via videoconference from Bujumbura, presented conclusions on the discussion on behalf of the stakeholders. They were heartened and comforted by the declaration that the Peacebuilding Commission had endorsed a strategic framework and not an integrated peacebuilding strategy to be developed in the future. They were equally heartened that the Commission was as anxious as they were to proceed with the urgent implementation of that Strategic Framework, which was a means to an end, not an end in itself. They also recognized that, for the Strategic Framework to be a working document, care must be taken not to multiply mechanisms for evaluation and follow-up and that all would endeavour to ensure that whatever mechanisms were put in place would follow up implementation of both the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the Strategic Framework, as mentioned in its paragraph 88.

42. **Mr. Kamana** (Burundi) said that the comments made and advice offered were one more proof that the Peacebuilding Commission intended to succeed in assisting Burundi as it emerged from conflict.

Other matters

43. **Mr. Deruffe** (France) said that it was regrettable that only an unofficial English version of the Strategic Framework had been available to the Commission for its discussion. He urged that the importance of multilingualism should be taken into account in the future work of the Commission.

44. **Mr. Attiya** (Egypt) said that it was his delegation's understanding that the Chairman's statement to the press would reflect the agreement reached at the ninth meeting of the Organizational Committee.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.